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### THE GUAHIVOS INDIANS.

This tribe of Indians reside on the river Ariare, 150 miles from San Martin in New Granada, S. A. They were described by Humboldt as difficult to fix to the soil. They would rather feed on stale fish, centipedes, and worms than cultivate a little spot of ground. They were visited in 1885 by E. A. Wallace, who describes them in Timehri (N. S. I, 1887, 310-319). All the men carry bows and arrows, and some a long blowpipe in addition. The arrows are about 7 feet long and are furnished with a blade of bamboo as sharp as a razor, from 12 to 15 inches long by 2 inches wide. They now live on game, fish, maize, cassava, and plantains. The men wear a lap of bark cloth but the women use a piece about 4 feet square, which they draw across the body under one arm and fasten over the other shoulder. Men and women were all more or less painted in red and blue, especially about the face, chest, and arms.

Contrary to Humboldt, Mr. Wallace describes the Guahivos as short, sturdy, and muscular, and more decidedly red than other tribes. They are exceeding skillful with the bow and arrow. When a turtle is seen floating on the water they shoot an arrow high into the air, which, falling, pierces the shell of the animal. The arrows are fitted with a loose head, triangular in shape, very heavy, and made of hard wood. The head is attached to the shaft by a long piece of twine, which is wound several times around it. When the turtle dives the shaft becomes detached and floating on the surface enables the hunter to follow the game.

The men wear pieces of reed, about four inches long, passed through the ears, nose, and lower lip. The Guahivos women spin wild cotton, but all their hammocks were made of twine procured from Brazil, which is a kind of tibiserie, but much finer, darker in color, and better made than that seen in Demerara. The Guahivos have no means of intoxication and refuse to drink stimulants. They take a curious powder like snuff, which has an opiate effect. This substance seems to be prepared from a gum called yopa. Humboldt also mentions this peculiar habit of taking *niopo*. They chew the wood of a plant which enables them to travel great distances without fatigue. The earth-eating habit attributed to the Guahivos by Kingsley is denied by Humboldt.